

REMARKS

The pending claims of this application were rejected in the above-identified Office Action as being anticipated by the previously cited Egawa patent. By this response Applicant has made additional amendments to independent Claims 1 and 8 in order to clarify the patentable distinctions between Applicant's invention and that Egawa reference.

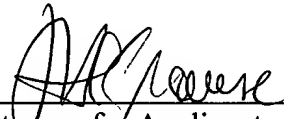
Particularly, independent Claims 1 and 8 now clearly require that the first transfer unit sequentially transfers first signals from the sensor array in a light projection ON state to the ring-shaped second transfer unit, and also sequentially transfers second signals from the sensor array in a light projection OFF state to the second transfer unit, wherein these sequential transfers are effected alternately, and wherein the transfer frequency of the ring-shaped second transfer unit is higher than that of the first transfer unit.

Applicant respectfully submits that the cited Egawa patent does not disclose the above-characterized requirements of Claims 1 and 8. For example, in the above-identified Office Action, in paragraph 2 thereof, the element 96 of Egawa was relied upon as disclosing applicant's claimed ring-shaped second transfer unit. On the contrary, however, Egawa specifies that element 96 is a linear transfer unit as stated at Column 4, lines 12-15 thereof. Moreover, that portion of the Egawa specification states that the linear CCD 96 "is connected to a ring CCD (not shown)". Accordingly, it is clear that linear CCD 96 in Egawa cannot be deemed to disclose Applicant's claimed ring-shaped second transfer unit, wherefore the Egawa patent cannot accomplish the transfers in the manner specified in Claims 1 and 8.

For these various reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claims 1 and 8 are allowable, together with all of the dependent Claims, wherefore the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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